

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

TOM CAMPBELL

(R) 2nd Legislative District



A REPORT ON THE 2002 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

*Serving the citizens of
Roy, McKenna, Graham,
Spanaway, Parkland,
Eatonville, Orting, Puyallup's
South Hill, Ft. Lewis, DuPont,
and part of Tacoma.*

OLYMPIA OFFICE:

403 John L. O'Brien Building
Olympia, WA 98504-0600
(360) 786-7912
1-800-562-6000 (Toll-free)

HOME:

P.O. Box 443
Spanaway, WA 98387

E-MAIL:

campbell_to@leg.wa.gov

**HOUSE COMMITTEE
ASSIGNMENTS:**

Health Care – Ranking Republican
Select Committee on
Community Security

Dear Friends,

I regard the oath of office I took as a promise to demonstrate leadership and honor your priorities in addressing the issues that face our state. That's why I am disappointed by the lack of leadership and the skewed priorities I saw during the 2002 legislative session.

This session finally brought an agreement to seek your consent on the largest transportation investment proposal in state history. That's a promise I was happy to keep. I'm also glad we were able to maintain our commitments to neighborhood safety and those in need of long-term care.

At the same time, I'm very concerned about the budget that funds state government operations with your tax dollars. For the second straight year, the stage has been set for huge tax increases, or huge cuts in vital public services. You expected better than that from the Legislature. Frankly, so did I. But the desire for political convenience was stronger than the interest in keeping the state's priorities straight.

It has been a great privilege to serve once again as your state representative these past two years. Remember, I am your representative all the time, not just when the Legislature is in session. If you need help dealing with a government agency, or have questions about something the Legislature did this year, please send me a letter or e-mail, or call. I am always happy to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Tom Campbell

- INSIDE:**
- Budget Update
 - Transportation Referendum
 - Funding for cross-base highway
 - Citizen security

TOWN HALL MEETINGS

Eatonville, Yelm,
Graham, Orting

**SATURDAY
MAY 18**

NOTICE ON BACK PAGE

TRANSPORTATION REFERENDUM HEADING FOR THE BALLOT

You've seen how south and east Pierce County are growing. You probably have also seen how **we don't have the transportation infrastructure to support this growth.**

Many months of debating whether to let you vote on a transportation funding proposal finally led to an agreement on the last day of the 2002 session. The state Senate voted 34-15 against putting the statewide transportation package on the ballot. However, **the House held firm, and the Senate gave in. The package will go before you, as a referendum, in the Nov. 5 general election.**

I preferred the alternative package proposed by House Republicans, because it had something this transportation referendum doesn't contain: adequate assurances that new tax revenues will be spent more efficiently than they are now. However, my number-one concern was making sure the transportation proposal would go before you as a referendum. **I strongly believe that this is your government and your money, and the only way to fix the transportation situation is with your partnership and support.**

BUDGET IS AN ATTACK ON PUBLIC TRUST

How did the Legislature deal with the collapse of the state operating budget? By adopting a replacement that spends \$22.5 billion against an estimated \$20.9 billion in revenue (according to the February forecast). That's a *\$1.4 billion* shortfall, twice as bad as the budget passed last June.

But this is no ordinary case of government overspending. Before it could approve this budget, the majority party made two of my worst fears as a legislator come to pass.

First, the state spending limit created by Initiative 601 was stripped of its strongest protection. **Instead of approval by two-thirds of legislators, it now takes only a simple majority vote to raise taxes and tap the state's emergency reserve fund.**

I worked to pass I-601 in 1993 because the Legislature passed a budget that was hundreds of millions of dollars out of whack, then raised taxes to make up the difference. Now the Legislature has swept the spending limit aside so it could pass a budget that spends more than \$1 billion beyond our state's means. Can big tax increases be far behind?

Second, the money our state is receiving from the national tobacco settlement is being "securitized" to pay for day-to-day government operations. That's a fancy word for hanging a "fire sale" sign on a big chunk of the payments that could and should be going to stabilize our public health care system.

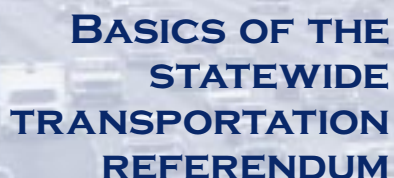
Here's the bottom line: gutting I-601 allows the budget to include \$325 million taken from the state's emergency reserve fund, and \$21 million in tax increases. Bonding against the tobacco money will bring in another \$450 million in cash, at a cost of at least \$1 billion of Washington's \$4.5 billion settlement.

Our state has never relied on so much "one-time" money to pay for day-to-day expenses. It's the wrong approach. When this money is gone, it's gone. Putting it in the general fund means it will be gone in only 14 months. You and I will effectively be paying off the bonds on the tobacco money for 30 years.

Last year I pushed to use the tobacco money to set up a pharmacy assistance program for our seniors. Now I wonder if any of that money will ever be available to improve health care in our state.

One more thing: the budget writers acknowledge their plan will leave taxpayers with a \$1 billion shortfall at the start of the next biennium – if the state doesn't go completely in the red before the end of the year.

This budget is a real one-two-three punch against the people of Washington. It's an attack on public trust, pure and simple.



BASICS OF THE STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION REFERENDUM

- 9 cent-per-gallon gas tax increase; 5 cents the first year, 4 cents the second year. The state gas tax has been 23 cents per gallon since 1991; this referendum would take it to 32 cents per gallon;
- 30 percent increase on weight fees on large trucks (over 10,000 lbs. GVW), phased in over two years;
- An additional 1 percent sales tax on new and used vehicles.

A REPORT ON THE 2002 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

FUNDING SECURED FOR CROSS-BASE HIGHWAY

It's taken a lot of work, but **the long-awaited "cross-base highway" linking Interstate 5 and State Route 7 is official.** I secured initial funding for it in the House of Representatives' transportation package, and kept it there until the list of highway projects was adopted.

The cross-base highway project (State Route 704) will receive an initial \$1 million appropriation if voters approve the transportation-funding referendum on the November ballot. **Either way, our foot is in the door at last.** Now there's something to point to when we start talking seriously about money and construction schedules.

I also have proposed naming this road in honor of Sgt. 1st Class Nathan Chapman, a Pierce County resident who was the first American serviceman killed by enemy fire in Afghanistan. He had spent most of his 13-year Army career at Fort Lewis, which will be crossed by the new SR 704.

I look at what the bridges across Lake Washington have meant to Bellevue and Kirkland and eastern King County, and I see the cross-base highway having similar benefits for Pierce County. There's much more work to do, but **I'm confident this road, which is on the wish list of every Pierce County community group, will become a reality.**

IMPORTANT UPDATE: The Department of Transportation has put a halt to the project to widen SR 161 (Meridian Road) between 204th Street and 234th Street, even though it was funded in the current-law transportation budget. This project would represent real value for south Pierce County in terms of improved safety for schoolchildren, faster emergency response and traffic congestion relief. I have written to the governor suggesting how he could find money to resume the project, but so far have received no response.



Rep. Tom Campbell's successes this session include approval of the cross-base highway and protection of money for nursing homes.

HEALTH CARE: A HIT AND A MISS

The governor's budget proposal would have slashed funding for nursing homes and long-term care by \$71 million. **I opposed this from the beginning, and worked throughout the session to keep money for nursing homes in the legislative budget proposals.** It grieves me that the supplemental operating budget takes away tobacco-settlement money that should have gone toward health care. But I am glad nursing-home funding was protected.

I wish I could report that we also addressed the cost of prescription medication, which accounts for more than \$800 million in the budget. This year I was the lead Republican sponsor of a bill aimed at lowering prescription prices. It received committee approval but never was brought before the full House for a vote, because the majority party could not decide between it and a last-minute alternative.

CITIZENS DESERVE MORE SECURITY

Between Fort Lewis, McChord, the Port of Tacoma and the other military installations and ports around Puget Sound, our state is at risk of being targeted for a terrorist attack.

I was appointed to the House Select Committee on Community Security and supported the full package of community security measures we developed. **I believe these bills would have made Washington less vulnerable to terrorist attacks and more prepared in the event of an attack, without infringing on our freedoms.** The Senate disagreed, and rejected them.

We did better in holding the line against meth criminals and sex offenders. The governor wanted to simply lower sentences for drug offenders and put the savings in the general fund. The bill we passed revised the "scoring" that determines drug-offender sentences — but not in the case of certain meth offenders or those with sex-crime convictions.

Next session I will re-introduce legislation that would make methamphetamine manufacturing a "strike" under the "Three Strikes, You're Out" law.



TOWN HALL INFO

Please join me Saturday, May 18 for a town hall meeting. These are open to the public, and no reservations are needed. We can talk more about what happened during the 2002 legislative session, your concerns, and any questions you have about state government.

10-11 a.m.

**Eatonville Court House,
Room 1**

201 Center Street West
360-832-3361

12:30-1:30 p.m.

Yelm City Council Chambers

105 Yelm Ave. W.
360-458-8405

3-4 p.m.

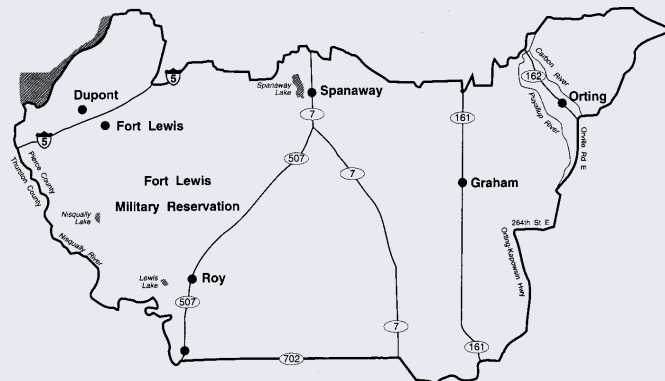
Graham Library

9202 224th E.
253-547-4030

5:30-6:30 p.m.

Orting Multi-Purpose Center

202 Washington Ave. S. (next
to Library)
360-893-2219



2ND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

Serving the citizens of Roy, McKenna, Graham, Spanaway, Parkland, Eatonville, Orting, Puyallup's South Hill, Ft. Lewis, DuPont, and part of Tacoma.

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Washington State
Department of Printing

**A REPORT ON
THE 2002
LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

**REPRESENTATIVE
TOM CAMPBELL**

403 John L. O'Brien Bldg.
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600